

## PLYMOUTH AND PUNGO TURNPIKE ROAD.

The whole of this work has been constructed; but in a manner which renders it nearly useless. The road is too narrow for carriages to meet and pass in safety; the ditch on the west side, is too small to take off the water, and did not afford earth enough to cover the cause-ways. On two or three miles of that part of the road next to Plymouth, I found it difficult, in many places, for a horse to pass without slipping between the poles, and sinking in soft mud below, so as to run some risk of being crippled. The water, occasioned by recent heavy rains, covered it in many places, so that I could neither ride or walk over it safely.

The examination of the books and papers, showed that the money had been honestly expended; but there seems to have been some unaccountable error committed in receiving the road. If a strict compliance with the terms of letting had been required from the contractors, this work would not have been, as it is now, nearly useless.

It is alledged, that Horace Ely, the contractor of that part of it which I saw, failed to perform his contract; and that it was subsequently let to another person. Mr. Ely gave bond and security for the faithful performance of his engagement, and was therefore liable to the action of the Company; and the subsequent contractor should have been required to complete it according to the original specifications.

As very few persons appear to feel much interest in the road, it will probably be suffered to lie unused, until the bushes and reeds will wholly obstruct it. A larger ditch on the western side, would afford earth sufficient to cover the cause-ways, so as to make a good road; and the enlarged ditch, (or canal, as it might be more properly called), would afford important facilities in getting lumber out of the swamp, of which it affords the best quality. Whether the owners of these lands would contribute towards its accomplishment, has not been ascertained.

A road and canal, as originally projected, would, undoubtedly, enhance their value, and contribute greatly to facilitate the intercourse between Plymouth and Hyde county; but the work is not of sufficient general importance to require the State to effect it.